

Violence in Assam

1563. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blasts taken place in Kokrajhar and other areas of Assam during the current year; and

(b) the measures taken to curtail the violence in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to available information, one incident of bomb blast has been reported in Kokrajhar district during the current year. Three incidents of bomb blasts have been reported from other areas of Assam during the current year.

(b) Army and Central Para-Military forces have been deployed on the request of the State Government to keep the situation under control. The RPF and the State Government have been asked to take special measures for protecting Railway property, Railway Stations etc. A unified Headquarters has been formed to synergise and coordinate the counter insurgency operations being conducted by Army, CPOs and State Armed Police. Regular review meetings are being conducted on the law and order situation in the State both at State and Central Government levels.

[Translation]

Wheat for Open Sale

1564. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has announced the prices of wheat for sale in the open market for the next four months;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum prices of the wheat fixed;

(c) the quantum of wheat to be sold in 1997-98, State-wise;

(d) whether this unprecedented 40% hike would increase the prices of essential commodities like Maida, Atta, Suji and Wheat;

(e) if so, whether almost all the parties have opposed this move; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The prices of wheat revised with effect from 4.2.97 are applicable till further orders.

(b) As per the revised rates the minimum price of wheat under open market sale scheme is Rs. 4900/- pmt and maximum is Rs. 7900/- pmt.

(c) The decision to continue or otherwise on the Open Market Sale Scheme (domestic) of wheat during 1997-98 will be taken after the ensuing procurement trend of wheat becomes available.

(d) Open sale of wheat is undertaken, *inter-alia*, to exert a sobering influence on the market prices without jeopardising the Public Distribution System. In the absence of open sale market prices of wheat/wheat products could have registered a higher rise.

(e) and (f) Representations have been received from a few State Governments, RFMS Associations, etc. opposing the upward price revision which are under consideration.

[English]

Oil Slick on the Andhra Coast

1565. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an oil slick on Andhra Coast has been reported in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the impact of oil slick on environment;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to compensate the fishermen of the Andhra Pradesh whose nets were damaged on account of the slick; and

(d) the measures taken to save the affected marine life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information of the Coast Guard Headquarters no impact on the environment due to oil slick on the east coast of Andhra Pradesh was reported during the period.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Milk Powder

1566. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk of India's milk powder is in a capacity to meet the international pesticide standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the per capita per day quantity of milk powder required for the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS

PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Milk powder manufactured in India is subjected to standards for pesticide residues as laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the rules framed thereunder. All exports of milk are required to meet the standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or to any international or additional specifications if so required by the buyer, provided the same is not inferior to the BIS standards.

(b) Per capita nutritional requirement of milk has been estimated to be 220 ml/day which works out to about 28 gms of milk powder per day.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Agricultural Sector

1567. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign investment in the agriculture sector has not increased despite adoption of liberalisation policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote the foreign investment in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and technical collaboration in the agriculture sector has increased during the past few years.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Foreign Assistance to Organisations

1568. SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the organisations working for the development of environment receiving funds from the foreign countries;

(b) whether the Government have also received complaints regarding the activities of these organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Violence in N.E. Region

1569. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extremist organisations of North Eastern Region are being imparted training in arms at the camps based in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myamar for continuing the insurgent activities in the region and some other States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with these countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of these countries thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Reports indicate that there are camps in some of our neighbouring countries which are being used by North East insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. The matter has been taken up with these countries and they have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Policy for NGOs

1570. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have laid down any policy to give the financial assistance to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) with the approval of the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance given to the Non-Governmental Organisations during the period from 1st May, 1996 to 31st January, 1997;

(d) whether complaints regarding mis-utilisation of the funds have been received against some of these organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof;